

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 646

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jim Kalogeros on the celebration of his 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kalogeros, one such noteworthy person, celebrated his 90th birthday on February 7, 2009, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born in Statesville, North Carolina, to his parents, John Kalogeros, Sr., and Mini Kalogeros, Jim Kalogeros is a man of integrity who embodies the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, an American patriot, Mr. Kalogeros proudly and honorably served his country in the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1938, his late father, John Kalogeros, Sr., opened The Peerless Restaurant on West Market Street in Johnson City, and this exemplary establishment has grown and prospered over the past seventy years by serving outstanding food combined with fellowship and exceptional service; and

WHEREAS, The Peerless Restaurant has long been a gathering place for the residents of Johnson City, and its doors are always open to anyone who is hungry; and

WHEREAS, a second generation restaurateur, Jim Kalogeros joined his father in the family business and utilizing his determination, strong work ethic, and business acumen, he has built an excellent reputation for fine food and service, helping to create the iconic nature of The Peerless Restaurant; and

WHEREAS, a deep believer in the values that made this country great, Mr. Kalogeros is an entrepreneur at heart and as founder of Peerless Properties, he remains active in all his business pursuits; he helped open a second restaurant in Knoxville with his son, Gary Kalogeros, and continues to be active in the operations of the original restaurant with his son, John Kalogeros; and

WHEREAS, possessing a civic-minded nature and a passion for his community, Mr. Kalogeros has committed his time and energies to a number of noteworthy organizations, including among others, serving as a board member of the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, St. Johns Episcopal Church, and Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, and serving on the President's Council of Milligan College; and

WHEREAS, noted for his benevolent heart, he has supported several worthy charities and estimable institutes of higher learning, including Children's Hospital, Johnson City Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, East Tennessee State University (ETSU), Northeast State Community College, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK); and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he is the recipient of several honors, including the St. Michael Award by the Greek Orthodox Church, the Johnson City Hall of Fame Business Award, an Honoree Alumni Award from ETSU, and the East Tennessee Restaurateur of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, all of his esteemed accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he has shared with his beloved wife, Alexandria, their children, John, Maria, Gary, and the late Elizabeth Kalogeros Webb, and their grandchildren, Demetrios, Constantine, Athan, James (Jim), and Alexandra; and

WHEREAS, as Jim Kalogeros enters his tenth decade, he is still an active and productive member of society; he continues to be an avid boater and water-skier and loves spending time at his cabin on Boone Lake; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Jim Kalogeros on the celebration of his 90th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.